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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/652,477	08/31/2000	Michael Sokol	023925-00011	2877

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SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.
14TH FLOOR
8000 TOWERS CRESCENT
TYSONS CORNER, VA 22182

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2632

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/652,477

Applicant(s)
Michael Sokol et al.

Examiner
HUNG NGUYEN

Art Unit
2632



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 31, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the present state" as claimed on line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the condition" as claimed on line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the system" as claimed on line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 2-3 & 8-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 2 , line 5, delete “;” and insert --. -- after “register”;

Regarding claim 3, line 2, insert --. -- after “one”;

Regarding claim 8, line 1, delete “11” and insert --7-- after “claim”;

Regarding claim 9, delete “;” and insert --. -- after “information”;

Regarding claim 10 , line 5, delete “;” and insert --. -- after “register”;

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4. In the Summary

on line 7, delete “;” and insert --,-- after “state”;

on line 8, delete “;” and insert --,-- after “controller”;

on line 20, delete “;” and insert --,-- after “controller”;

on line 21, delete “;” and insert --,-- after “signals”;

5. In the Abstract

On lines 2-3, delete “;” and insert --,-- after “controller”;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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7. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ahne et al. (U.S. 6,133,844).

Regarding claims 7-8, Ahne discloses a method of operating a display system comprising the step of:

- providing event signals (220,220) representative a condition of a system to a programmable controller (20) [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract];
- generating signals representative of system state in response to the event signals (200,220) [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract];
- display a visual representative of information (200,220) representing system state [figs.3-4, col.1, lines 29-56, col.3, lines 52-62 and col.4, lines 32-52];
- providing programming information to the programmable controller (20) [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract].

Regarding claim 9, Ahne discloses a programmable controller (20) for controlling a display device (200,220) based on event information indicative of a current one of a set of predefined states of a communication system(10), comprising:

- a programmable controller (20) responsive to programming information defining a selected associated with each of the states of the communication system (10), the programmable

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controller being operative to generate a control signal indicative of a current display state (200,220) based on the current of the communication system and the programming information [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-3 , 5 & 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahne et al. (U.S. 6,133,844).

Regarding claims 1 & 5, Ahne discloses an apparatus comprising:

- a programmable controller (20) operative to determine a present state of a system, the programmable controller (20) providing a signal representative of the system state [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract];

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- a display device / LED (200,220) operative to provide a visual representation of the state of the system in response to the control signal [figs.3-4, col.1, lines 29-56, col.3, lines 52-62 and col.4, lines 32-52].

Ahne does not specifically disclose a technical term as a drive operative to generate a control signal in response to the signal provided by the programmable controller as claimed by the applicant. However, Ahne clearly discloses the programmable controller (20) includes a memory (22) to allow a user to program characteristics of at least one light emitting diode (LED) in order to convey information about the operation status of an apparatus such as a printer [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract] . Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ any well known technique such as the claimed programmable controller (20) with the memory (24) to generating a control signal in response to the signal provided by the programmable controller for providing a plurality visual signals relating a particular operational status condition of the printer .

Regarding claim 2, Ahne discloses the programmable controller (20) includes a memory (22) to allow a user to program characteristics of at least one light emitting diode (LED) in order to convey information about the operation status of an apparatus such as a printer [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract] .

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Regarding claim 3, Ahne discloses a multi bits each bit storing a value of 0 or 1 is cited in figs. 7-10, col.3, lines 34-50 and col.6, lines 5-14 .

Regarding claim 10, Ahne clearly discloses the programmable controller (20) includes a memory (22) to allow a user to program characteristics of at least one light emitting diode (LED) in order to convey information about the operation status of an apparatus such as a printer [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract] ;

- the programmable controller (20) responsive to programming information defining a selected associated with each of the states of the communication system (10), the programmable controller being operative to generate a control signal indicative of a current display state (200,220) based on the current of the communication system and the programming information [figs.3-6, col.1, lines 29-56 , col.2, line 62 to col.3, line 5, col.3, lines 52-60 col.4, lines 32-52 and abstract].

10. Claims 4 & 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahne et al. (U.S. 6,133,844) in view of Ross et al. (U.S. 5,027,112).

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Regarding claims 4 & 6, Ahne fails to disclose the driver comprises an array of tri-state devices and the display comprises array of light emitting diodes , arrange in a matrix. The array of tri-state devices and the display comprises array of light emitting diodes , arrange in a matrix are used in the system to providing more clearly visual signals to an operator about the status condition of the apparatus.

Ahne does teach a technique of using a tri-state device as on / off / blinking in the LED for displaying the operational status condition of the printer [figs.7-12, col.5, line 54 to col.6, line 67]. Furthermore, Ross discloses a display system comprises a display area defined by an array of light emitting diodes (LED's) which form a matrix having a series of rows and columns [figs.3-4, col.5, lines 6-20]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize the system of Acne as taught by Ross for determining which state condition is displayed when more than one state condition exists.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Briggeman (U.S. 4,611,193) Electric display device of a vehicle .
- Vandemotter et al. (U.S. 4,837,552) Non-volatile fault display with magnetic reset switch for adaptive braking system .

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- Shaw et al. (U.S. 4,933,667) Graphic annunciator .
- Lee et al. (U.S. 5,995,012) System status displaying device .


12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Daniel Wu, can be reached on (703) 308-6730. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Examiner: Hung T. Nguyen

Date: Dec. 3, 2002


DANIEL J. WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/13/02